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Russia barred from major international sports competitions including Olympics, World Cup for four years. 2

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The World Anti-Doping Agency has barred Russia from competing in international competitions for the next four years.



JOE PANTORNO  
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Russia has been banned from major sporting competitions for the next four years by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Most notably, the ban will withhold the country from competing at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo and the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

WADA was forced to come down with the severe punishment Monday after the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) continued to be non-compliant into several probes investigating multiple doping allegations.

While it had been long suspected that Russian athletes were taking performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) on the international sporting stage, a groundbreaking discovery by WADA's Richard McLaren in 2016 revealed to The New York Times that Russian officials have been supplying their athletes with illegal substances for years.

# Russia banned from 2020 Olympics, 2022 World Cup



GETTY IMAGES

**"I am 100% sure [Russia will go to court] because we must defend our athletes."**

Svetlana Zhurova

It was later described as "one of the biggest conspiracies in sports history," as over 1,000 athletes across 30 sports were involved in the doping program.

That included during the 2014 Winter Olympics

in Sochi, Russia – where 28 Russian athletes were accused of doping – and the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio De Janeiro that saw over 100 Russians withheld from competing rather than the country being banned.

Per The New York Times' report, three years ago, a deputy sports minister ordered that the athletes' abuse of these substances was to be covered up.

The unveiling of the widespread deceit led to Russia being unable to compete in the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, but clean Russian athletes were allowed to compete under a neutral flag.

That will also be the case for clean athletes in

upcoming major competitions – including the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. As the host country of the 2018 World Cup, Russia advanced to the quarterfinals before getting knocked out by eventual runners-up, Croatia.

If Russia qualifies for the 2022 World Cup, they will compete as a neutral team. However, they will compete under the Russian flag in the 2020 European Championships because UEFA – the continent's govern-

ing body – is not a part of WADA's jurisdiction.

RUSADA has three weeks to accept the decision or appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The latter is believed to be the most likely option.

"I am 100% sure [Russia will go to court] because we must defend our athletes," Russian State Duma lower parliament house deputy chairperson, Svetlana Zhurova, told TASS News Agency.

## Colorado Planned Parenthood shooter indicted

**2** A man accused of fatally shooting three people at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado in 2015 was indicted by a U.S. grand jury on dozens of federal charges that could result in the death penalty, U.S. prosecutors said on Monday. Robert Dear, 61, was taken into custody early on Monday at the State Mental Hospital in Pueblo, Colorado, and was scheduled to appear before a U.S. magistrate in Denver later in the day.

Dear, who was previously charged with multiple state counts of murder and dozens of additional crimes in the shooting in Colorado Springs, has repeatedly been deemed by an appeals court to be mentally unfit to stand trial. The accused gunman said during previous court appearances that he was guilty, proclaiming himself "a warrior for the babies." His outbursts prompted a court-mandated mental evaluation of the suspect. **REUTERS**

## U.S. Nov. border arrests drop amid Trump crackdown

**3** The Border Patrol arrested about 34,000 migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border in November, a 75 percent drop from a recent high point in May, according to statistics released on Monday by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Border arrests – which are used to estimate illegal crossings – initially plummeted after U.S. President Donald Trump took office in January 2017. How-

ever, they soared in the spring to monthly levels higher than those under Trump's predecessor, former President Barack Obama. The Trump administration credits the decline to tougher asylum policies and increased cooperation with Mexico and Central American nations. Still, the decrease only brings the arrest figures in line with the average November over the past decade. **REUTERS**

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## NEWS

By March 2021, the Javits Center expansion will be complete.



BECCA GLASSER-BAKER  
Rebecca.Glasser@metro.us

A \$1.5 billion expansion of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Hell's Kitchen will be "substantially complete" by March 2021, according to state officials, coming in on budget and on time.

A press release from Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office states the project will be adding 1.2 million square feet of event space to the convention center. The space will also have updated lighting fixtures, heating and cooling systems and wireless connectivity.

Once completed, the center will be the largest

## Governor Cuomo announces \$1.5 billion Javits expansion on track



Gov. Andrew Cuomo at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Javits Center's expansion. **GOV. CUOMO'S OFFICE**

According to the press release, some other highlights include:

- Creation of 500,000 square feet of contiguous exhibit space on one level with the addition of 90,000 square feet of prime exhibit space;
- 107,000 square feet of new meeting room space, including a 54,000 square-foot special event space, the largest such space in the Northeast;
- 113,000 square feet of pre-function space;
- Rooftop pavilion and terrace accommodating 1,500 individuals;
- 480,000 square-foot, four-level truck marshaling facility;
- 27 new loading docks; and
- One-acre rooftop farm

of its kind in the Northeast.

The project will expand the steel and concrete

superstructure. It will also include the final phase of expanding non-structural steel under-

way. It has been reported that 13,940 tons of steel have been fabricated for this project.

The steel work is set to finish in March 2020, which is three years after the project's groundbreaking, according to a press release.

Gov. Cuomo said in a press release, "New Yorkers expect action, and the expansion of the Javits Center through the design-build process is delivering results in a safe, streamlined fashion that will generate a new wave of economic activity."

Cuomo added, "With so many jobs dependent on large-scale events hosted here, the Javits Center has become one of New York's most important economic assets, and this expansion will ensure it remains the nation's busiest convention center for generations to come."

## 3-year-old killed, mother in critical condition in Harlem car crash

A 3-year-old boy has died and his mother, 25, was seriously injured when they were hit by a car while crossing an East Harlem street Monday.

The crash happened on First Ave. and East 116th St., just after 9:30 a.m., as the woman was pushing the boy in a stroller, according to ABC.

Both the mother and child were rushed to Metropolitan Hospital, where the 3-year old identified as Bertin Dejesus was pronounced dead. The mother is reportedly in critical condition.

NBC reports that a blue Ford F-250 hit the victims and it appeared as if the driver, 59, was heading eastbound on 116th St., where he made a left onto First Ave. going north when he struck the child's stroller.

It has been reported that the driver initially fled the scene but returned. The driver was taken into NYPD custody



ISTOCK

for questioning. He has not been identified at this time; outlets say that someone flagged down the driver to stop.

ABC reports that a local business has some surveillance footage of the incident and said that the driver left at a regular speed, indicating that the driver might not have been aware of what happened.

Witnesses reported that the driver seemed to be banging on his car, banging his head and crying as he realized what had happened.

Witnesses were distraught by the terrible scene. The investigation is ongoing. **BECCA GLASSER-BAKER**



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# Boston's trauma to be dissected as marathon bomber appeals death sentence

Lawyers for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev argue jurors were too traumatized to be unbiased.

The 2013 Boston Marathon bombings that killed three and injured hundreds more will be re-examined Thursday when lawyers for bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev seek to have his death sentence lifted, arguing that the jury pool was too traumatized to render a fair verdict.

The then-19-year-old Tsarnaev and his 26-year-old brother Tamerlan sparked five days of panic in Boston that began April 15, 2013, when they detonated a pair of home-made pressure cooker bombs at the race's packed finish line. The pair eluded capture for days, punctuated by a gun battle with police in Watertown that killed Tamerlan and led to a daylong lockdown of Bos-

ton and most of its suburbs while heavily armed officers and troops conducted a house-to-house search for Dzhokhar.

Tsarnaev's defense team, in briefs filed with the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston, argued that the unprecedented shelter-in-place order biased the pool of potential jurors, including one actual juror who joined the unanimous vote for the death penalty.

The manhunt for the younger Tsarnaev, now 26, left an indelible mark on the city. Armored vehicles and thousands of National Guard troops cast a dragnet across the Boston suburb of Watertown. Just before a resident found a wounded Tsarnaev hiding in a boat parked in his backyard, a broadcast of a Boston police scanner channel attracted nearly 265,000 listeners.

"Even if a juror honestly believes before trial that



This April 2015 courtroom sketch depicts US District Judge George O'Toole speaking during the sentencing phase of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's trial. REUTERS

he or she can objectively hear the evidence, when a community has been aroused to a fever pitch, the prospective juror may come to fear returning to neighbors with anything other than a guilty verdict and a death sentence," Tsarnaev's defense team wrote in a legal brief.

U.S. Justice Department lawyers disagreed,

saying Tsarnaev received a fair trial. The department has noted a survey conducted for Tsarnaev's own lawyers found 96.5% of respondents in Washington, his preferred venue for the trial, had heard of the bombings.

But legal experts say arguing that some jurors were tainted with bias may offer the defense team

its best bet in winning relief from the court. The defense and prosecution each will get an hour to argue their side before an appellate panel of judges.

"Of course, (the defense) will throw in the kitchen sink, the bedroom furniture and everything else in hoping something sticks," said Robert Bloom, a professor at Boston Col-

lege Law School. "That is what you do in these cases."

The defense team says the trial should not have been held in Boston, that some jurors made false statements before their selection, and that the jury should have heard that Tamerlan had been a suspect in a 2011 triple homicide.

A friend of Tamerlan admitted to the FBI having committed the murders with him, according to recently unsealed court documents. The jury did not hear about those murders during the trial.

The younger Tsarnaev was sentenced to death in 2015 after a jury found him guilty of killing three people: Martin Richard, 8; Lingzi Lu, 26, and restaurant manager Krystle Campbell, in the bombing; as well as murdering MIT police officer Sean Collier, 26, three days later.

REUTERS

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Smoke from the volcanic eruption of Whakaari, also known as White Island, is pictured from a boat in New Zealand on December 9, 2019 in this picture grab obtained from a social media video. **INSTAGRAM @ ALESSANDROKAUFFMANN/VIA REUTERS**

# More than two dozen people feared missing after New Zealand volcanic eruption kills 5

Dangerous conditions have stalled rescue efforts.

More than two dozen people were feared missing on Tuesday, a day after a volcano that is a tourist attraction suddenly erupted off the coast of New Zealand's North Island, killing at least five people and injuring up to 20.

Police said early on Tuesday they did not expect to find any more survivors from the volcanic eruption, which occurred on White Island on Monday at about 2:11 p.m. (0111 GMT), spewing a plume of ash thousands of feet into the air.

About 50 people, New Zealanders as well as foreign tourists, are believed to have been nearby at the time and several were seen near the rim of the crater minutes before the eruption.

Rescue services have been unable to reach White Island as it remains too dangerous.

"No signs of life have been seen at any point," the police said in their statement early on Tuesday after rescue helicopters and other aircraft had carried out a number of aerial reconnaissance flights over the island.

"Police believe that anyone who could have been taken from the island alive was rescued at the time of the evacuation."

Tour operators took some people off the island before it was declared unsafe. Twenty-three people were rescued, police said on Monday, adding that others were still on the island.

"Police (are) working urgently to confirm the exact number of those who have died..." their statement said, adding that a ship would approach the island at first light on Tuesday to further "assess the environment."

Ardern was expected

said up to 20 people were believed to have been injured in the eruption, adding that a mobile triage unit was on its way.

Several people with burn injuries were helicoptered to the nearest town on the mainland.

"I know there will be a huge amount of concern and anxiety for those who had loved ones on or around the island at the time. I can assure them that police are doing everything they can," Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told a news conference after landing in Whakatane late on Monday.

**"Both New Zealanders and overseas tourists are believed to (have been) involved, and a number were from the Ovation of the Seas cruise ship."**

**Police statement**

Many day tours visit the island regularly. One from a 16-deck cruise liner, Ovation of the Seas, was there at the time.

"Both New Zealanders and overseas tourists are believed to (have been) involved, and a number were from the Ovation of the Seas cruise ship," the police statement said.

St. John Ambulance

to give an update at a news conference set for 18:00 GMT on Monday.

A crater rim camera owned and operated by science agency GeoNet shows groups of people walking toward and away from the rim inside the crater, from which white vapor constantly billows, in the hour leading up to the eruption. **REUTERS**

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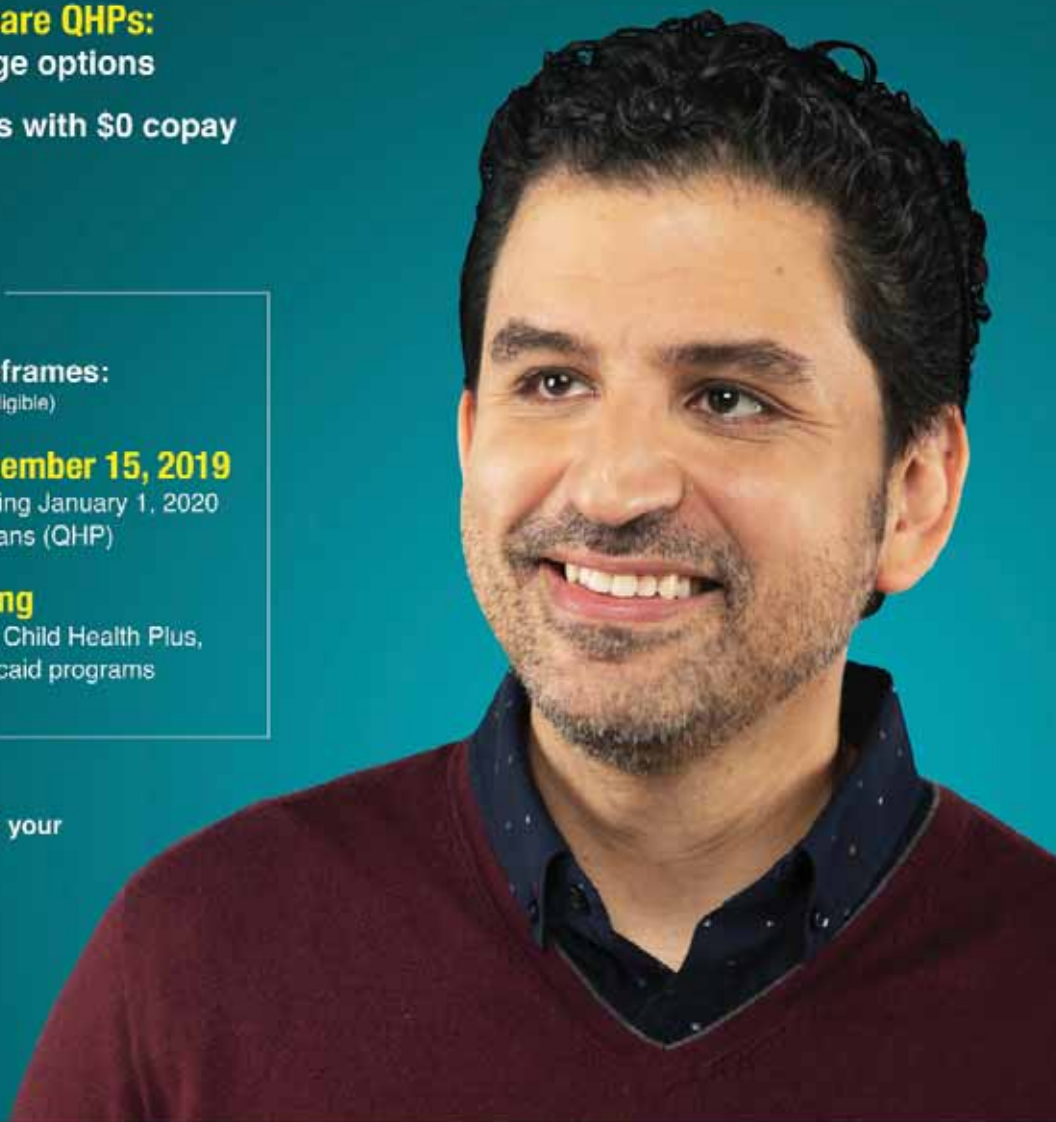
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# Amazon leases office space in Hudson Yards

This latest expansion will bring 1,500 new jobs to the city.



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Less than a year after Amazon dropped plans to build its second headquarters in Long Island City, the tech giant has officially signed a lease for office space in Hudson Yards, as the Wall Street Journal first reported. The Seattle-based company will expand its presence in Manhattan with 335,000 square feet of office space at 410 Tenth Avenue. There are currently about 3,500 employees in the company's existing NYC offices and this latest expansion will bring 1,500 new jobs to the city—all without any incentives.

"It's clear the main reason Amazon wanted to be here was the availability of a skilled tech workforce plus the synergy with related industries," James Parrott, an economist at the New School, told the Journal. "And New York City still retains that attraction."

Amazon's plans to bring a \$2.5 billion campus to Long Island City were projected to bring 25,000 new jobs, but keep in mind that number reflected a 15-year period. The state and city offered \$2.8 billion in incentives—including \$1.5 billion in tax breaks and grants and a helipad—in a competitive bidding war with 200 other cities. The deal fell apart in the face of backlash from local politicians and activists.

"Amazon is coming to New York, just as they always planned," New York state senator Michael

Gianaris said in a statement. "Fortunately, we dodged a \$3 billion bullet by not agreeing to their subsidy shakedown earlier this year."

Governor Cuomo—who was vocal against the original deal's critics—emphasized that the new move isn't providing any benefits for Long Island City. "This is crumbs from the table compared to a feast," he said. "We don't have a problem bringing businesses to Manhattan but we have been trying for decades to get that Queens waterfront developed."

Last Friday, social media giant Facebook also announced plans to expand its NYC footprint. The company is close to inking a deal for 700,000 square feet at the former James A. Farley Post Office, a landmark in Midtown currently being converted into a mixed-use building. Apple is



BILL BENZON/FICKR

**"We don't have a problem bringing businesses to Manhattan but we have been trying for decades to get that Queens waterfront developed."**

Governor Cuomo

also reportedly scoping out the former post office and Google is cur-

rently building a huge campus across three buildings in Hudson

Square. These deals signal the growth of the tech sector in New York City, particularly on Manhattan's West Side.

Amazon is expected to open its new Hudson Yards offices in 2021.

This story was provided to Metro through an agreement with 6sqft. Visit [www.6sqft.com](http://www.6sqft.com) for more NYC neighborhood news.

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The cast and crew of "Marriage Story."

REUTERS

## 'Marriage Story' leads mostly white, male Golden Globe nods, De Niro snubbed

Ceremony will take  
place in Beverly  
Hills on Jan. 5.

Netflix divorce drama "Marriage Story" on Monday led a Golden Globes nominations list dominated by movie stories about white men and marked by snubs for actor Robert De Niro and television shows "Game of Thrones" and social justice drama "When They See Us."

"Marriage Story" scored six nods, including best drama and for actors Adam Driver, Scarlett Johansson and Laura Dern. It was followed by Martin Scorsese's epic gangster movie "The Irishman," and Quentin Tarantino's love letter to Hollywood "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," with five apiece.

De Niro, the star of "The Irishman," was left out of the best actor race, although his co-stars Al Pacino and Joe Pesci won nods for their supporting roles and Scorsese will compete for best director.

"It means so much to all of us – to me, Bob, Joe, Al, and the whole team – to be recognized with these nominations," Scorsese said in a statement.

The best movie drama category was rounded out with director Sam Mendes' immersive First World War drama "1917" from Universal Pictures, terrifying comic book vil-

lain "Joker" from Warner Bros and papal story "The Two Popes."

The films nominated for best comedy or musical were Eddie Murphy's comeback "Dolemite Is My Name," Nazi-era satire "Jojo Rabbit," murder mystery "Knives Out," "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" and Elton John biopic "Rocketman."

Apple Inc.'s streaming service landed its first major award nominations for "The Morning Show," along with its stars Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon.

**"It means  
so much to  
all of us –  
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the whole  
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nized with  
these nom-  
inations."**

Martin Scorsese

Yet in the movie race, stories about and by women like including "Harriet," "Little Women," "Bombshell" and "Hustlers" were omitted from the major races although some of their stars, including Saoirse Ronan, Jennifer Lopez, Charlize Theron and Cynthia Erivo won acting nods.

The director field was an all male affair dominated by veterans Tarantino, Scorsese, Mendes, Todd Phillips for "Joker" and South Korea's Bong Joon-Ho for social satire "Parasite."

Netflix dominated the nominations across both television and movies, scoring a leading 17 nods in movie fields and 17 in television.

HBO's medieval fantasy "Game of Thrones" failed to make it into the best TV drama series race, and upcoming movie musical "Cats" scored just one nod, for Taylor Swift and Andrew Lloyd Webber's original song "Beautiful Ghosts."

Among the biggest snubs was Ava DuVernay's searing television dramatization of the wrongful imprisonment of five black teens for a 1989 rape in New York's Central Park, which won two Emmy awards earlier this year.

The Golden Globes ceremony, hosted by British comedian Ricky Gervais, will take place in Beverly Hills on Jan. 5.

The ceremony should see a host of other major Hollywood stars whose work was nominated on Monday, including Beyonce (for her original song for "The Lion King"), Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio, Daniel Craig, Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks, Renee Zellweger, Cate Blanchett, Elton John and "Catch-22" producer George Clooney. REUTERS



# Israeli foreign minister: Bombing Iran to stop its nuclear program remains 'option'

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said the option to launch a preemptive strike against Iran to prevent it from developing a nuclear weapon remains viable.

Speaking over the weekend with the Italian-language daily newspaper *Corriere della Sera*, Katz, when asked whether Israel was considering military options vis-à-vis Iran, said, "Yes, it is an option. We will not allow Iran to produce or obtain nuclear weapons. If it were the last possible way to stop this, we would act militarily."

The comments were reportedly made on the sidelines of a foreign policy conference in Rome. They came just hours after Iran announced it is ready to unveil a "new generation" of nuclear-related "products," including new centrifuge systems and a heavy water power plant sched-

uled to be built by the spring of 2020.

Katz further admonished European leaders for not taking a more aggressive stand against Iran over its repeated, escalating violations of the 2015 nuclear deal.

"As long as the Iranians delude themselves into thinking they have Europe's backing, it will be more difficult for them to back down," Katz said.

On Friday, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif accused Israel of holding "a nuclear missile test aimed at Iran."

"Israel today tested a nuke-missile, aimed at Iran," Zarif posted on Twitter, adding that the U.S., Germany, France and the United Kingdom "never complain about the only nuclear arsenal in West Asia - armed with missiles actually designed to be capable of carrying nukes - but

has fits of apoplexy over our conventional and defensive ones."

The Israeli defense establishment successfully tested a rocket propulsion system on Friday. Defense officials stressed that the test was

planned in advance and in no way targeted Iran.

*This article was provided to Metro through an agreement with Israel Hayom news. Visit [www.israelhayom.com](http://www.israelhayom.com) for more coverage.*

ISRAEL HAYOM STAFF

**"Yes, it is an option. We will not allow Iran to produce or obtain nuclear weapons. If it were the last possible way to stop this, we would act militarily."**

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz



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# Doctors Urge Knee Pain Sufferers

## "Don't Get ANY Surgery Until You See This..."

*After Years Of Intense Study, NYC Medical Clinic Finally Reveals It's Best "Treatment Formula" For Helping Knee Arthritis Sufferers... Especially When So Many Other Treatments Have Failed*

**NEW YORK CITY** - If you are even remotely interested in discovering how the latest scientific discoveries can possibly help your knee pain... then this is going to be the most exciting information you ever read.

**Here is why:** Knee pain can not only be brutal... it's complex. In other words, it's not a simple, easy fix.

But I'm sure you already know that. Or you wouldn't be reading this.

**That's the bad news.**

**Now for some good news...**

Over the years, *NYC Pain MD* has treated countless knee pain sufferers. And in that time have been able to constantly improve.

And we have come up with a treatment formula that we have found works best and helps the most patients.

This formula has reduced or even eliminated the pain in many. Some were scheduled for knee replacement surgery and felt good enough to cancel their surgery.

It's amazing when patients who were once in excruciating pain... start feeling better. And start walking again. And playing golf. Or tennis. And finally getting their lives back.

Especially when they had gone to other doctors and tried so many other things.

So many had given up hope.

Sound familiar? If it does... check this out...

### **The Treatment Formula**

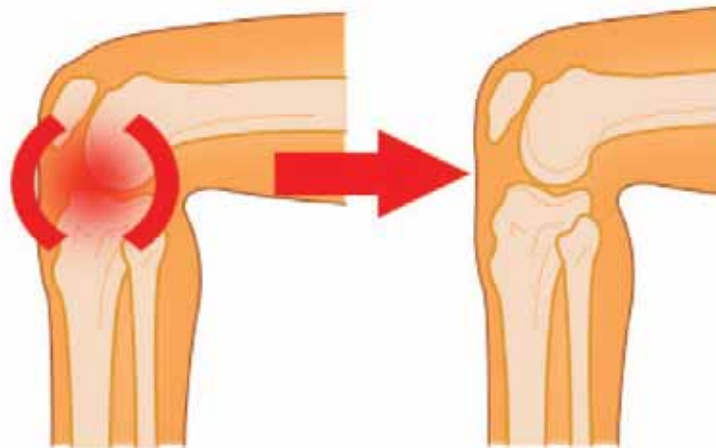
While I can't give you the entire treatment formula here (there is not enough space and WAY too complicated) I can give you the basics. And more important... I can tell you what it might be able to do for YOU.

The first and most important part of the formula is: **PATIENT SELECTION.**

This means, *NYC Pain MD* has a detailed screening process to tell who is most likely to be helped by their treatments... and who is not.

If you qualify, you have the opportunity to move forward and experience the worldclass treatments that *NYC Pain MD* offers.

If you do not, *NYC Pain MD* will tell you what they think your best options are and help



*NYC Pain MD* "Treatment Formula" A protocol of advanced medical treatments that has already helped thousands.

you find the right doctor for you.

If you qualify, *NYC Pain MD* offers some of the most advanced medical treatments available today all using the most advanced imaging technology including:

- Viscosupplementation (gel injections)
- Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP)
- Stem Cell Therapy (Lipogems)
- Genicular Knee Block
- And more.

Once again, there is not enough space to go into detail about all these procedures... but here are some things you **MUST KNOW...**

Viscosupplementation is where a doctor introduces a gel-like medicine directly into the joint space. This helps to lubricate the joints often relieving some, most or even all of your pain. Results can last for 6 months to several years.

Many have had these treatments *without* good results. However, *NYC Pain MD* feels this is because doctors often do these "gel injections" without advanced imaging to guide them. Research shows they will often miss the joint. If the joint is missed... it is impossible for the treatment to work.

*NYC Pain MD* has spared no expense and used advanced imaging to guide the injections assuring the medicine gets into the joint. We frequently get results when this treatment was a failure done elsewhere.

**The second thing you must know is...** our treatment plans are custom made for every patient. And we have all these treatments

offered in the same place. Many times you will get the best results from multiple treatments. At *NYC Pain MD* your doctors will all be there and will all know each other and you and your case. They work together and give you the best treatments and care without you having to go anywhere else.

The ability to select the right patients and then have the potential to give them any or all of these treatments... with all the necessary medical technology... under one roof... has allowed *NYC Pain MD* to get better results than they thought possible.

### **Here's What You Should Do Next**

If you suffer with knee pain... and any of this made sense to you... *NYC Pain MD* would like to offer you a No-cost screening. That screening is the first step in our "Treatment Formula."

You will get to see a doctor and ask any questions you have. Your doctor will take the first steps to see if you qualify for treatments and give you recommendations.

**The best thing is...** you will finally get direction. You will know what's going on and what is your best course of action... step-by-step. The treatments will be explained in detail and you will breathe a big sigh of relief finally knowing what's going on and what can or cannot be done.

There is so much we want to say to help you... but I'm out of space. Give us a call at **877-296-6310** and take the first step. That step is free without obligation.



**www.PainMDNY.com**  
**877-296-6310**



# How to head into your second semester like a champ

Here's our guide on how college freshmen can get back on track in the new year.

**METRO STAFF**

With the beginning of the Spring semester starting after the new year, as a freshman college student, it's good to take a look back and reflect on everything you went through this first half of the year. Not only to see how far you have come but also to make sure you are on the right track for the rest of your college career.

A study by the College Atlas found that 70% of all Americans will attend a four-year college in their life but only two-thirds of those students will end up with a degree after



attending all four years. What's even more troubling is that 30% of all students who drop out of college do so just after their first year. So what goes wrong during that one year to make so many people change their minds

and how can they get back on the right track spring semester?

## **Fix your learning habits**

Sure, it's okay to withdraw from a couple of classes during your time at school. Some

of them might not be the right fit for you in terms of your major and you just simply need to get out of there. It's also okay and normal to do poorly in your first semester in a class or two. College is much

different than high school and the culture shock alone can get too many students right out of the gate. What you should understand is that colleges do not want you to fail or do poorly. You are key to their success rates and they will help you in any way they can. If your last semester was a little disappointing, make sure to head to student services to sign up for tutoring sessions to help break some of your learning habits from the Fall.

## **Budget your money wisely**

As many students have those stark realizations that maybe college is simply not the right fit for them, sometimes the financial decisions that year can come back to bite them after their second semester is over.

By being frivolous with your money in your freshman year, making money during your winter or summer break to get back on track can be difficult and lead to a bigger hole of debt than you may be used to. College should be a time when you are free and open to learning and not think about the debt that hovers over your head with every decision you make. If you need some assistance with paying for your time at school, make sure to find out if you are eligible for work-study programs on campus. You may feel the urge to get out and experience as much as you can while at school without working, but having that security will go along way and get you a little more ready for the real world after school.



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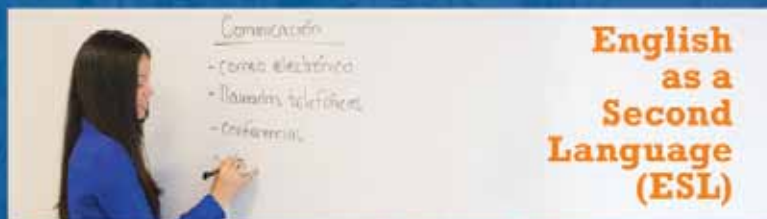
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# Classes to give as gifts this holiday season

METRO STAFF



While giving someone a gift that holds some sort of sentimental or functional value is always a good route during the holiday season, giving someone a class to learn a specific skill that could change their life forever might make more of an impression this time of year. Here are three different kinds of classes you can give as a gift this holiday season.

**Cooking classes**  
For many of us, we like to believe we at least

know how to cook one or two things in the kitchen that can impress the people we are entertaining. But what about those meals that you consider “restaurant only” meals? If you know someone who has a passion to cook and wants to take it a little bit further, or someone who is just trying not to be hopeless in the culinary arts, cooking classes are the perfect gift for this holiday season.

The New York-based company, Cozymeal,

helps to pair amateur cooks of all levels with trained chefs that can help them learn how to cook such delicious and advanced menu items as fresh pasta dishes, classic Indian food and even the delicate art of making French macarons. Classes range from around \$60 to \$125 and run for around 3 hours.

For more info and classes, head to [www.cozymeal.com](http://www.cozymeal.com)

**Painting classes**  
Much like cooking, artistic inclinations like painting, drawing and sculpting are skills that need to be nourished and pushed in the right direction. While there is no shortage of boozey painting classes in this city, finding serious courses for all skill levels can be difficult outside of enrolling into a full-time program. If you are looking to give someone painting

classes as a gift this holiday season that will peak their interests in the art world, the safest bet would be to go with Dirty Hands in the Lower East Side. Rather than focusing on Bob Ross basics, Dirty Hands likes to focus on modern techniques that are ripped right from the contemporary movements of the day. As per their own motto: “All levels are welcome & the only

thing you’re not going to do is paint a f-king sunset!”

For class information and pricing, head to [www.dirtyhands.work](http://www.dirtyhands.work)

**Learn a new language**  
It’s easy for many people to be discouraged at the fact that they never learned a language early in life. But there is always time to learn and with so many great programs in the city

## The NYU School of Professional Studies Professional Education for Every Stage of Your Career

The **NYU School of Professional Studies** is a leader in professionally focused education. For 85 years, the School has partnered with industry to develop programs of study that meet the needs of the workforce in New York City and around the globe. To better serve students and employers across the tri-state area and beyond, the School has developed a suite of non-degree programs—Professional Pathways—that address the needs of professionals at every stage of their careers. **Convenient schedules and many online study options available.**

**Career Advancement Courses** are open-enrollment, professionally focused classes that provide maximum flexibility to create a personalized educational experience. These programs of study are offered online and onsite, making it easier for working professionals to sharpen their skills in a traditional classroom setting or from their desktop or laptop computer.

**NYUSPS Certificates** are open-enrollment credentials for those who wish to gain a broad-based understanding of a field as a career path or for career change. They are perfect for those who are just starting out and who may require an overview of an industry. Certificates also are ideal for older adults who may be considering a second career and who want to learn about professional options in an area they are considering.

Programs are offered in key industries that drive the economy in NYC and around the world including: Accounting, Applied Health,

the Arts and Arts Management, Art Appraisal and Historic Preservation, Building Design, Communications and Writing, Construction Management, Design, Entrepreneurship, Film and TV, Finance, Fundraising and Grantmaking, Global Affairs, Hospitality and Restaurant Management, Interpreting and Translation, Law, Leadership and Coaching, Management, Marketing, Languages, Project Management, Public Relations, Real Estate, Technology, and Tourism. In addition to sharpening skills and expanding expertise, professionally focused programs serve as an unsurpassed opportunity to network and to make new, invaluable connections.

A wide range of courses in the humanities also are available with a focus on history and culture; literature; philosophy, psychology, and religion; as well as theater, music, and acting. These programs provide a wealth of opportunity to join in deep discussion and to exchange ideas with like-minded individuals.

**Registration is open for spring.**

Visit [sps.nyu.edu/pathways05](http://sps.nyu.edu/pathways05) for a full list of programs and to register online.

Call **212-998-7150** to register by phone and **212-998-7200** for additional information.

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		3		8	5			6
						2		9
1	3				2	6	9	4
4	9	8	1				2	7
8		4						
3			6	5		9		
	2			3	1	7	6	

MEDIUM

						2	4	
9			2					7
7		2	4	6			1	
4			1			3		6
	9						7	
5		3			9			1
	4			1	3	9		8
2					8			3
	1	8						

HARD

7		9		8				
2			4					
	6		3				2	
1		7				2		
		4	7		2	9		
		6				7		3
	8				6		5	
					8			2
				7	8			6

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I sometimes wish the whole thing would go away, and return to a time with face-to-face or even voice-to-voice communication.

Larry, Metro US reader



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**Taurus** Follow your intuition. False information is likely if you listen to gossip or someone who paints an elaborate picture with words. Make decisions based on facts.



**Gemini** Confusion will set in if you cannot decide what you want to do next. Consider the goals you set and find out what you have to do to fulfill those dreams.



**Cancer** Nothing will be for sure, so don't feel uneasy trying to find out where you stand. Ask and you will receive all the information required to make the right choice.



**Leo** Use your charismatic appeal to attract interest in what you are trying to pursue. Personal improvements and new connections can be made if you network or attend a social function.



**Virgo** Listen to what's being said and consider the validity of what's being offered before you say yes or no. Take your time, as impulsiveness will lead to mistakes.



**Libra** Take control and finish what you start. Traveling and sharing your ideas will bring excellent results. Refuse to let someone stand between you and what you want.



**Scorpio** Gifts are heading in your direction. Your ability to negotiate strategically will lead to monetary gain. Get everything in writing and look forward to a positive lifestyle change.



**Sagittarius** Control your emotions, so you don't appear vulnerable. If someone tries to take advantage of you, be sure to shut them down quickly. Concentrate on what's possible, not on what someone wants you to believe.



**Capricorn** Your competitive nature will enable you to drum up support to complete whatever you start. Don't waste time; approach whoever is in charge and start working.



**Aquarius** Evaluate your current position and consider the changes you would like to make. Sign up for a personal consultation that will help you get on track regarding health, physical fitness and diet.



**Pisces** A pick-me-up will be energizing. There is nothing wrong with taking time out to read a good book or mull over how best to utilize your day. EUGENIA LAST



## LIFESTYLE

Brodsky utilized animation for the film. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

# “Hopefully it can be a conversation starter”

Filmmaker Irene Taylor Brodsky talks deeply-personal new film, “Moonlight Sonata: Deafness in Three Movements.”



MOLLY GIVEN  
Molly.Given@metro.us

In documentary-style films and series, you see an abundant amount of filmmakers completely immerse themselves into their narrative and characters to give audiences an inside look at a certain subject. With Oscar-nominated director Irene Taylor Brodsky's latest film, “Moonlight Sonata: Deafness in Three Movements,” you get that in-depth look but at an extremely personal subject to her — her family. “Moonlight Sonata” follows Brodsky's deaf son Jonas, who is learning to navigate life and music while developing his disability, while his deaf grandfather (Brodsky's father) slowly begins his own difficult journey health-wise. On top of it all, Jonas is determined to learn Beethoven's “Moonlight Sonata,” which consequently was the very piece of music the composer penned while going deaf himself.

Brodsky sat down with Metro to discuss her inspiration for the film, the challenges surrounding documenting within your own family and dive into more on the conversations she hopes “Moonlight Sonata” starts.

**You've given audiences an inside look at your family life before with your 2007 docufilm “Hear**

**and Now.” Why choose to turn the cameras back on your family life now?**

I did tell myself the last time I made a family film that it would be one for a lifetime. But I think the story surrounding Beethoven and my son was just too powerful to pass up. I realized my deaf son was determined to learn this piece written by a composer as he was going deaf — and Jonas had no idea what Beethoven's backstory was. So I figured out what a watershed time this was for Beethoven, and I also realized gosh, I have 200 years of the deaf experience right in front of me: this piece of music which lives on through the composition and the melody that we know as “Moonlight Sonata,” and then my son who is a very 21st-century deaf kid. I just knew it was an opportunity to really explore a lot of themes around disability and creativity.

**One aspect I really enjoyed about the film was the different cinematic tools utilized such as the animations peppered in representing Beethoven — what was the inspiration behind that?**

I knew from the get-go that depicting Beethoven would be a challenge. Beethoven lived before there were any pictorial records, so I looked at other examples of Beethoven in popular cinema, filmmaking and documentaries — but I just really wanted to depart from that. Living in Portland, Oregon, we are a real animator town. There are a lot of independent animators who have so much talent,

so I decided to use animation to depict it. That was a first for me as a documentary filmmaker, I had never really poured myself into using animation as a cinematic tool. It's a very abstract idea, but I knew that I didn't want to depict Beethoven always as a human being, I wanted to have my viewer kind of rely on their own depiction of who he might be. So sometimes you'll see him without a full face, sometimes he's a bird, sometimes he's just a hand with planets swirling around. So hopefully the animation sparks people's imagination.

**As the film goes on, your son is progressing but we also see your father run into his own challenges. Did this change the narrative of the film from when you first started?**

Absolutely. With every documentary, a good filmmaker must be open to the narrative shifting and changing. All we can do when we set out is say, “This is what I think my film is going to be.” We don't really know until life unfolds in front of us. In the case of this film, I started thinking that the film was going to tell the story about a deaf boy and a deaf composer. But really, as I saw Jonas' deaf grandfather starting to come of age as an older deaf adult and develop his own problems, I thought it was a really poignant entry into the loss Beethoven might have felt. My dad was losing his mind in much of the same way that



Beethoven was mysteriously losing his hearing. Neither of them knew how to stop it, neither of them necessarily saw it coming, yet as it was happening they were acutely aware of it. So, the film became a story not only about creativity and the generation of ideas but also about loss as well. Beethoven lost his hearing, my father lost his mind and Jonas through it all was sort of coming of age and understanding his own loss with his hearing as a young child could actually become a tool for him as a musician.

**Is it difficult to work on a project that is this personal?**

I think from the get-go this film was very much an artistic and spiritual endeavor. It felt professional because I am a professional, and I apply my standards, but I also just made it very intuitively. I often had to

pick up the camera in my own home when I was in the middle of a mundane activity, but then something would happen that I really needed to film or that I thought was a really important building block in the narrative. So to that extent, it was grueling because you had to be on all of the time. I had to be ready at a moment's notice, and that was the professional in me, but it was also really the mother in me and the more intuitive artist that had been developing in me to make those choices — do I pick up the camera for this, or do I leave it alone? I also think there were times where I really had to check-in on the family and make sure that there was not any resentment creeping up around filming. So I tried to be reasonable — but my family is very accustomed to having cameras around, I'm sort of an obsessive documentarian, even if it's just on my iPhone. I have to give the characters in my film a lot of credit though because they really tolerated the camera more than I think most people would.

**Overall what do you hope audiences take**

**away from the film?**

I hope it's a film that makes us think about our own families and all of the life lessons that are right under our noses that we are living with every day. But more broadly, I think this is a film about people with differing abilities. There has been a very common narrative in literature and history surrounding people with disabilities when they do something great, it's always in spite of their disability. I think we don't give that so-called disability the credit that it deserves for how it makes individual people more insightful, sensitive, intuitive or even more able. It makes them ultra-able to take things on. Watching my son grow up and my father grow old, there are so many things about their deafness that contribute to their greatness. It's not like they exist in spite of that. So hopefully it can be a conversation starter about our own families and about disability in general and what that really means, and what its value is.

**“Moonlight Sonata: Deafness in Three Movements” premieres Dec. 11 on HBO.**



# The most stylish duo from 'RuPaul's Drag Race'

## RAJA & DETOX

Metro chatted with the former participants of the most famous drag reality show in the world. **LUZ LANCHEROS MWN**



Detox is not only a fashion lover, but also an icon.

"RuPaul's Drag Race" put drag culture, for years marginalized and stereotyped, in the mainstream. Several stars have emerged from the show, who have had successful careers. Raja Gemini and Detox Icunt are two of them. Gemini was the winner of the show in its third season and the first Asian-American artist to participate in it. And Detox participated in the fifth season and in "RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 2," in which the 34-year old came in among the finalists.

Both have had prominent careers. Sutan Amrull (Raja) was a makeup artist for years and currently has a solidly built music career since 2011. The 45-year old's latest single is called

"MoodBored," with a dark, but glamorous universe, and electronic rhythms. Detox, meanwhile, signed with a record label in 2012 and has appeared in music videos of Lady Gaga, Foals, and Jeffree Star, among others. Both show another vision of fashion with their eclectic, vibrant and artistic looks. Metro chatted with them to learn more about their aesthetic and musical vision.

### How did you build your style?

**Detox:** I am a girl from the eighties that grew up in the nineties with the rise of supermodels. I have always thought of myself as a super-villain fashionista because costumes are very sexy.

**Raja:** I love fashion,

**"Fashion for me is EVERYTHING. Therapy. An addiction. A dangerous love affair."**

Detox Icunt

but style even more. I love people who wear a different style every day, like a suit. I reinvent my style every day. I don't do it in a planned way and I want my fans and others to see me as a person who has experienced many lives, experienced many provocative things and is constantly challenging himself.



ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

### What are your fashion icons and influences?

**Detox:** My icons are Thierry Mugler, Linda Evangelista, Daphne Guinness and ... I could go on and on. Now, there is always a bit of the past in the things I do. Aesthetically I am a girl from the eighties: strong silhouettes and bright colors.

**Raja:** We had a lot of fun making the "MoodBored" video and everything around it. One of the most important images for me was to recreate a woman out of old Hollywood, an old and eccentric woman wandering the streets. I like these women who seemed more like characters. Vampyra, for example, who wore black in the forties and fifties, who was always in character. And I have always liked those types of eccentrics who are always in character. I love many icons, but above all, I love those who are really eccentric.

### How could you define your musical career so far?

**Detox:** I don't really consider myself a musical artist. Honestly, I really do what I feel like doing when I feel like it. I am

currently not working on music, but I have immersed myself in house, trip-hop and electroclash and I can feel some tingling inspiration, so maybe I will start thinking about a new project soon.

**Raja:** When I started on "RuPaul" I was very insecure and I saw that other people did everything better than me. I never focused on it, until, five years ago, in Portland, when I started exploring this a little more and felt ready. I came across people who had an open mind, and the universe brought me to the right people at the right time. With "MoodBored," I show that background of the fashion industry, and this song shows my way of being. Everything has been done quite organically and has been very well received.

### How do you see drag culture today and its influences on makeup, for example?

**Detox:** (The show) definitely put drags into the mainstream. Families watch together and entertainment companies capitalize and use more drag artists, but I would

love for other drags to have the visibility than just those of us who were lucky. And I also think that in the political climate we live, the more visibility there is, the better, that is why it is important for the show to be more inclusive. We need more trans artists to be represented. I think it would be incredible to see drag kings represented. Today, drag culture is very different, it's everywhere. Now, I love how popular and socially acceptable drag has become, but I also want people to be more aware of the incredible artists that paved the way for us to get to where we are.

**Raja:** As a makeup artist, I have seen more proposals and inspiring brands, but I feel that sometimes everything is oversaturated and many times it is very repetitive. It's like everyone wants to be a version of Kylie Jenner, she's beautiful, but it's repetitive. It is not as exciting like before. For my part, I want to get more involved with fashion and be a better artist and tell new stories. I want to amaze and surprise.

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## Booze & Brews WITH BECCA



Becca Glasser-Baker considers herself an adopted New Yorker. Although she studied culinary arts in New Jersey, she credits her passion for cocktails to exploring New York City. When she's not writing, she's probably baking, hanging out with friends, blasting Taylor Swift or petting dogs. When she's not sipping on a cocktail, she's busy indulging in exotic teas. Email her at [Rebecca.glasser@metro.us](mailto:Rebecca.glasser@metro.us) with tips, trends, favorite spots and cocktail ideas.

# 8 MUST-SEE HOLIDAY THEMED BOOZY POP-UPS

New York City becomes a little more magical during the holiday season. Buildings are decked out, and there are all kinds of pop-ups waiting to be explored. Not to mention the rooftop bars that turn into winter wonderlands. If you're looking to stay warm this holiday season by having a cocktail or five, I've put together a list of the eight best boozy pop-ups to check out this winter.

I'll see you there!

### Bailey's Treat Bar at Bloomingdale's

A few weekends before the holidays, Bailey's is setting up shop at Bloomingdale's. The pop-up will be at the department store's 59th St. location and will serve Bailey's with hot chocolate and mochas. The treat bar will also have festive toppings for your drink of choice, as well as a photo booth. The drinks are free!

Dec. 12 – Dec. 22, Thursdays to Fridays 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Saturdays to Sundays 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. Bloomingdale's, 1000 Third Ave. 59th St. and Lexington Ave.

### The Winter Rose Garden at The Lobby Bar at Dream Downtown

The popular bar is launching its first holiday pop-up installation, running until March 2020. The spot is decked out in beautiful roses and will make you feel like you're in wonderland. This pop-up is nothing short of magical. They even have some special drinks to try out, like their Winter Daiquiri that will cost you \$18 and features rum, simple syrup, Barking Irons White Night, lime juice and apple slices.



The Winter Rose Garden at Dream Downtown.  
COURTESY OF EDWARD MENASHY OF MICHAEL KLEINBERG PHOTOGRAPHY

es. Don't forget to check out some of their other cocktails as well.

Now – March 2020, 355 W 16th St.

### Midwinter Nights' Dream at PHD Terrace

The year-round rooftop bar gets festive this holiday season. The bar is decked out with thousands of sparkling lights, gold and white floral installations, swings and more. There is even a tunnel of lights, which is an Instagram dream come true. When visiting this lively bar, check out some of their holiday specials like their Peppermint Mojito. The drink will cost you \$17 and is served in an ornament with rum, muddled mint, peppermint syrup, lime and mini candy canes.

Now – February 2020, 210 W 55th St. Go to [www.phdterrace.com](http://www.phdterrace.com) for hours.

### Pink Holiday Playground at Magic Hour Rooftop Bar & Lounge

If you're obsessed with the color pink, we've got the perfect spot for you! The Pink Holiday Playground at Magic hour is the first-holiday pop-up installation dedicated to all things pink. The rooftop bar will have pink lights everywhere you look, rotating mirror

balls and massive teddy bears. If you check out this hot-spot, we suggest going for their \$26 Snow Globe cocktail. The Snow Globe has cherry noir vodka, elderflower liqueur, white cranberry, pineapple and pink sprinkles.

Now – February 2020, open every day at 4 p.m. 485 7th Ave, 18th Floor.

### The NoMad Bar Holiday Spectacular

The famous bar will run a pop-up on Sunday nights until Dec. 22. You can choose if you want to be naughty or nice this season by picking up a cocktail from their themed list. If you're feeling a bit naughty, check out their Not the Buttons! cocktail for \$18, which has bourbon, sherry, ginger, lemon and brown butter. If you're more into nice cocktails, check out their Candy Cane Colada, which has absinthe, Branca Menta, coconut and pineapple.

Every Sunday until Dec. 22, 5 p.m. to 12 a.m., 1170 Broadway and 28th St.

### Clicquot Chalet at Mr. Purple

Mr. Purple is bringing the ski lodge-inspired pop-up to New York City. The rooftop bar is the ultimate cozy spot to hang out this winter; the spot

will have plenty of blankets, digital fireplaces, and more. The pop-up has its own champagne bar and festive cocktails. Although we love champagne here at Booze & Brews, we also love a good cocktail. Check out their Snowday cocktail, which has Belvedere Vodka, cocoa, almond milk, cinnamon and vanilla.

Now – February 2020, 180 Orchard St., 15th Floor. Go to [www.mrpurplenyc.com](http://www.mrpurplenyc.com) for hours.

### Tacky Winter Takeover at The Late Late

If you crave something a little more eclectic this holiday season, you're going to fall in love with The Late Late's Tacky Winter Takeover. The spot is decked in fun, festive, and tacky décor this holiday season. If you're checking out this spot, we suggest ordering an Oh F...udge drink for \$16, which has Hennessy VS, house hot chocolate, whipped cream and nutmeg.

Now – January 2020, 159 E Houston St.

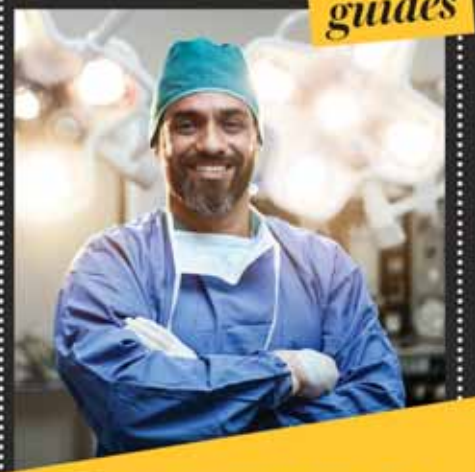
### Grinchy Tavern

This holiday season, the East Village Tavern is about to become a whole lot more green. The Grinch's Whoville decorations will overtake the tavern, which is serving up some Whoville classics like the Grinchhop for \$13, which will feature crème de cacao, green crème de menthe and heavy cream. Plus, every hour, red and green jello shots will be served for free.

Now – Jan. 1, 2020, Sunday to Thursday, 4 p.m. to 12 a.m., Friday to Saturday, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., 158 Loissaida Ave.

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# 'Ho-ho-ho' or 'Oh-no-no': Metro's guide to SantaCon 2019

On the official SantaCon website, there is a ticking clock on the side of the page that counts down the days, hours, minutes and seconds until this year's celebration. Sure, every year the streets will be filled with those more than willing to let their inhibitions go in favor of donning their finest Jolly Saint Nick outfits to drink together in collective merriment for a charitable cause. But those who fear this day on the calendar will treat this feature as a doomsday clock to a day when the streets of New York should be avoided like the plague. Because once it's down to zero there will be two choices: make plans to avoid SantaCon at all costs, or embrace the pure fun and absurdity of it. Here is everything you need to know about SantaCon 2019.

## When is SantaCon 2019?

This year's SantaCon will take place this Saturday, Dec. 14 starting at 10 a.m. and ending, many bars later, at 8 p.m. While starting a pub crawl at 10 a.m. while dressed head to toe in North Pole attire requires a considerable amount of commitment, being amongst a group of new friends with a shared booze-filled yuletide vision will propel you through the long day. Now where, exactly, does all of the fun/chaos start?



## Where will SantaCon meet?

As of right now, the bar where all of this year's fresh-faced Santas eager to spread the spirit (if that's what you want to call it) will be meeting is undisclosed to the public. But if you go onto the official SantaCon website and donate \$13 to this year's SantaCon charity you will gain access to the day's complete itinerary. Of course, you can dress up as Santa on your own and seek out the party stealth-style, but that would defeat the event's overall charitable ethos. If you do that, you'll be like a Santa who comes down a chimney with no presents to give. And no one likes that!

## If you choose to go-go-go

If you do choose to go, remember to keep it together just a little bit.

Fourteen arrests were made during last year's Hoboken SantaCon from people getting too into character, so make sure you don't ruin it for the rest of us. That goes for both Santas and those of us just trying to have a normal weekend. For this reason, the good people at SantaCon have listed the "5 F's of SantaCon." The list includes: 1) Don't F with kids, 2) Don't F with cops, 3) Don't F with bar staff, 4) Don't F with NYC, and lastly, 5) Don't F with SantaCon's charity mission.

Those seem like pretty reasonable asks, so do your best to stay within the rules and not ruin some poor kid's vision of Santa this year.

Head to [www.santacon.nyc](http://www.santacon.nyc) for more information on the event and how to make your donation. METRO STAFF

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## SPORTS



Knicks president Steve Mills should be the next to go, writes Metro New York sports editor Joe Pantorno. GETTY IMAGES

# KNICKS CAN'T BE DONE AFTER FIZDALE FIRING

## PANTORNO'S PERCH



**JOE PANTORNO**  
@JoePantorno

On the surface, you can almost feel bad for David Fizdale.

The former Knicks head coach — who was fired on Friday — was given the keys to a dysfunctional franchise that is broken at every joint, gear and pulley from top to bottom.

An organization that spent \$70 million in free agency over the summer went 4-18 in their first 22 games this season — further proving that upper management wasted their money on a roster that they thought would actually be an improvement from last year's 17-65 dumpster fire of a campaign.

Fizdale certainly had his faults throughout his season-plus as the Knicks' bench boss, but he had no chance to see the end of his four-year, \$22 million contract with team president Steve Mills doing everything possible to get him fired.

So yes, it's okay to feel bad for Fizdale. But at the same time, he's now being paid to NOT coach the Knicks.

That's a pretty sweet deal, too. Because this team has and will be a joke unless owner James Dolan stumbles upon

some mind-altering revelation that discloses the secrets of successfully running an NBA franchise.

If there is a time for action for Dolan, though, it's now. And his sights should be honed in on Steve Mills.

This man has somehow been able to stay with the Knicks for the past seven years despite being responsible for constructing this disaster.

Mills became the team's executive VP and general manager in 2013 before being promoted to president in 2017 following the departure of Phil Jackson.

Do you know how many times the Knicks have made the playoffs since his arrival? Zero.

Do you know the Knicks' record since his arrival? 167-348. That's a .324 winning percentage.

That's horrendous.

It's been abundantly clear for years that this guy doesn't know how to build a contender and it finally looks like Dolan is realizing that.

The Athletic's Frank Isola reported on Saturday that Mills is "finally on the hot seat."

Reassigning or firing him would open the door for Dolan to get the front office member of his dreams: Masai Ujiri.

I'll give Dolan this; he's wanted to get the Toronto Raptors' general manager to Madison Square Garden for some

time now. Per Isola back in November, the Knicks owner is going to try once again to get him to New York.

Ujiri is responsible for building the Raptors into a perennial contender in the Eastern Conference — including a league title last season behind the one-year mercenary that was Kawhi Leonard. He knows how to piece together a legitimate team and keep them in the mix for an extended period of time. The Raptors have been in the playoffs every year since Ujiri arrived in 2013.

At this point, Knicks fans would take flirting with .500 before the playoffs. You have to learn to walk before you can run — but the Knicks are immobile as they are on pace to win fewer than 20 games for a second-straight season.

It doesn't sound like the greatest gig, yet the 49-year old turned down a contract extension from Toronto last summer and would be "intrigued," to take the Knicks job, according to Bleacher Report's Howard Beck.

Granted, the money would have to be right and Dolan would have to be willing to fund Ujiri's Giants of Africa project, which "educates and enriches the lives of African youth," through basketball. But there should be no price too great to get this organization back on track.

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Gerrit Cole's new contract could be worth anywhere between \$250 million and \$280 million. GETTY IMAGES

## Yankees' \$245M offer won't be enough for Cole

The Yankees reportedly have a \$245 million offer on the table for the free agent right-hander.

JOE PANTORNO  
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

The New York Yankees' offer for Gerrit Cole might be record-setting, but it will hardly be enough.

Shortly after Bob Klapisch of the New York Times reported that the Yankees have a seven-year, \$245 million offer on the table for the free agent right-hander, The Athletic's Jayson Stark revealed that Cole's deal could go eight years for as much as \$250 million to \$280 million.

Why?

Other sharks are circling in the free agency waters.

When it comes to a contract of this caliber, only three teams can realistically keep up: the Yankees, Los Angeles Angels and Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Yankees have the backing of ownership to blow past the luxury tax threshold — which owner Hal Steinbrenner was so mindful of last season.

It's a necessary price to pay for a team on the cusp of seriously challenging for a World Se-

ries title in 2020. An ace like Cole will put the Yankees over the top.

The Angels have never been afraid to splash the cash thanks to owner Arte Moreno.

He made Mike Trout the richest player in MLB history back in March, signed a then-32-year-old Albert Pujols to a 10-year, \$240 million deal in 2011 and spent \$20 million on a posting fee just to sign Japanese dual-threat Shohei Ohtani.

While they've spent plenty of cash, the Angels have made the postseason just once in Trout's prolific career.

Pitching has been a glaring issue for much of that time and Cole could be the guy to help get Trout and the Angels back into playing October baseball.

As for the Dodgers, they are seen more as a wild card in the Cole sweepstakes — at least by Stark's standards.

They have spent big money on pitching before, inking Clayton Kershaw to a seven-year, \$215 million extension six years ago. That was before the team brought in Andrew Friedman as their President of Baseball Operations, which makes it unclear (at least for now) if he'd be willing to shell out that kind of contract.

While Kershaw has been one of the best regular-season pitchers of this generation, he's fallen short in the play-

offs on multiple occasions. That now includes a blown save in Game 5 of the NLDS against the Washington Nationals in which the southpaw allowed back-to-back home runs.

The Dodgers have been the class of the National League for the better part of the last seven seasons as they've won at least 90 games in each campaign.

In an act of desperation, Cole could be deemed as the arm to bring the franchise its first title since 1988.

The winner of Cole's signature will be foraging into unknown territory, though.

In terms of the total value of a contract, the richest deal for a pitcher in MLB history is David Price's seven-year, \$217 million albatross with the Boston Red Sox. So Cole's new contract will eviscerate that mark.

When it comes to the average annual value, an eight-year, \$280 million contract (\$35 million annually) would break the mark set by Zack Greinke's \$34.417 million per season payout signed back in 2016.

Those figures would also make Cole's prospective contract the fifth-richest in MLB history, trailing only Mike Trout (\$426.5 million), Bryce Harper (\$330 million), Giancarlo Stanton (\$325 million) and Manny Machado (\$300 million).

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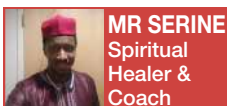
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## GAMES

## metro.us/crossword

## ACROSS

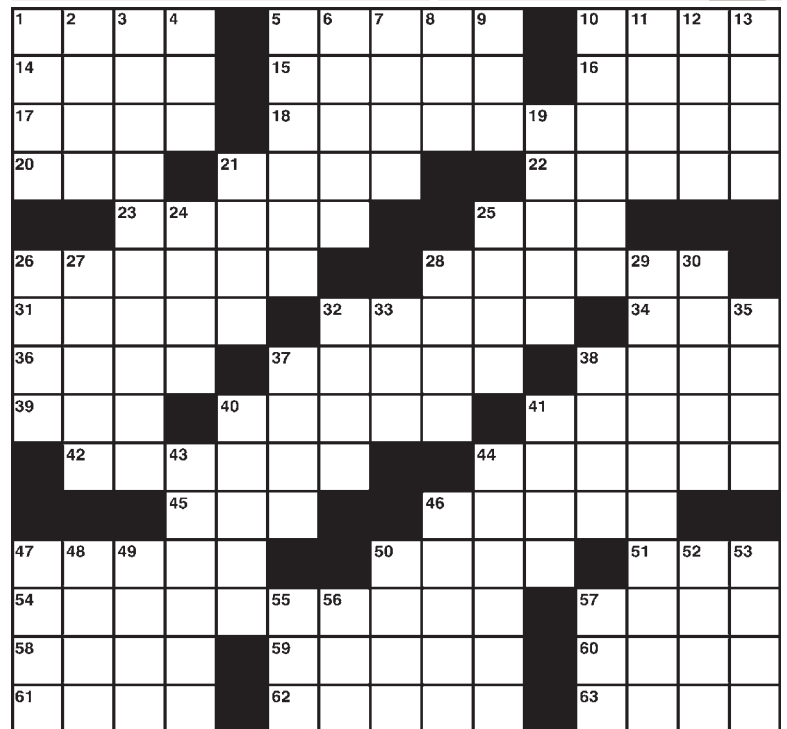
- 1 No longer wild  
5 Bundles of hay  
10 Fragile edibles  
14 Become dizzy  
15 "\_\_\_ a dream..." (MLK)  
16 Webster or Wyle  
17 Martial \_\_\_; karate, judo, etc.  
18 Behead  
20 Taro root paste  
21 June 6, 1944  
22 Tried the patience of  
23 Healed  
25 Simple card game  
26 Poor person  
28 Linear measures  
31 Give permission to  
32 Layered rock  
34 Have a meal  
36 Lunchtime  
37 Brief period of time  
38 Sandwich shop  
39 Wildebeest

- 40 Owner/tenant contract  
41 Frazier or Ali  
42 Bodyguard, e.g.  
44 Polite person's word  
45 Hit a tennis ball high  
46 Deep cleft; gorge  
47 Loafers & others  
50 Daub of liquid  
51 "\_\_\_ all Greek to me!"  
54 Little Irish fellow  
57 Ginger cookie  
58 Pacific Coast state: abbr.  
59 Fraction of a pound  
60 Frau's husband  
61 Actor Danza  
62 Writing tables  
63 Catch a glimpse of

## DOWN

- 1 Ensnare  
2 Prefix for plane or space  
3 Fastidious  
4 Ernie with a club  
5 Auction participant  
6 In the lead, so far  
7 Like a mantilla  
8 Zsa Zsa's sis  
9 Ninth month: abbr.  
10 Complete  
11 Intention  
12 CA's Golden \_\_\_ Bridge  
13 Small outbuilding

- 19 Fuming  
21 Carey or Barrymore  
24 Come \_\_\_; find  
25 Water source  
26 Hunger pain  
27 Without companions  
28 Guy  
29 Looks over again  
30 Business deals  
32 Squabble  
33 "For \_\_\_ a jolly good fellow..."  
35 Flat \_\_\_; driver's woe  
37 One from Belgrade  
38 Forest femmes  
40 \_\_\_ change; pocket coins  
41 Spill the beans  
43 Priests, rabbis & others  
44 T-Mobile store purchases  
46 Hen's comment  
47 \_\_\_ machine; casino attraction  
48 Submarine sandwich  
49 \_\_\_ house; realtor's event  
50 Forbids  
52 Waterproof covering  
53 Light on one's feet  
55 MA's Cape \_\_\_  
56 Paint selection  
57 That woman

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ArkadiumCheck your answers  
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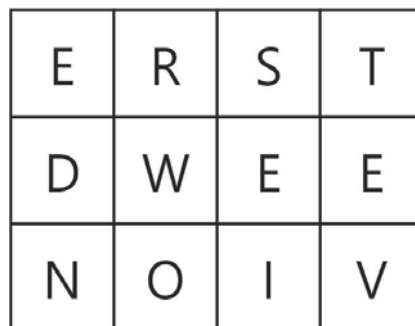
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## metro.us/wordsearch

Baggins  
Bilbo  
Doom  
Dwarf  
ElfFellowship  
Frodo  
Gandalf  
Jackson  
LordMountain  
Orc  
Peter  
Rings  
Sauron

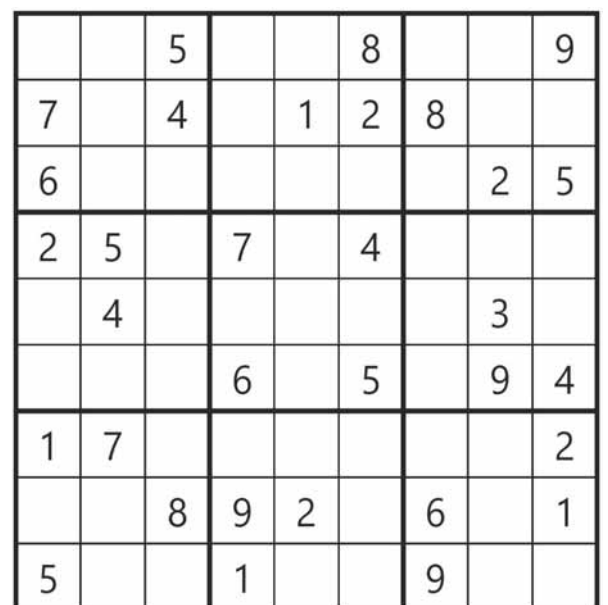
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## metro.us/sudoku

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